

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Stamford & Darien

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That’s why I fought hard to protect funding for Stamford and Darien. This table shows the state grants and reimbursements for our district in Fiscal Year 2010–2011.

I’ve continually strived to increase education funding to our Senate district. I’m pleased to say that since 2007, total state aid for education has increased by 57 percent!

Fiscal Year 10-11	
Total Education Grants (see below)	\$11,724,953
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$753,165
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$920,114
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$999,108
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$3,514,455
Total State Funds to the 27th District	\$17,911,795

Total Education Grants Over 5 Years	
FY 07	\$7,468,703
FY 08	\$9,216,021
FY 09	\$9,652,847
FY 10	\$10,034,815
FY 11	\$11,724,953

New Jobs Coming to Stamford

Last November, Starwood Hotels announced it will move its global headquarters and 800 jobs to Stamford in early 2012. Two months later, Nestle Waters announced it will move its headquarters and 475 jobs to Stamford, too. These important relocations were made possible only because of our efforts at the state level to keep and grow jobs in Connecticut—evidence that we are on the right track!



New Rail Cars Hit the Tracks

Several years ago, Connecticut approved investing nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars to update our decades-old fleet of Metro-North railcars. I am happy to announce that in just the past few weeks, the first half-dozen of these new M-8 railcars have begun making test runs. We anticipate having several online by December and all 300 new railcars online by late 2012.

Wright Tech Update

After months of fighting state education officials over last summer’s surprise closing of the J.M. Wright Technical School, an ad hoc committee is now recommending that Wright Tech be reopened in 2014 as a 21st century “green” technical school serving 500 students in eight different trades. With the \$90 million we secured to construct the school, a rebirth of Wright Tech should start soon.



SUMMER 2010



Dear Neighbor,

Despite the pressures of this global recession, I am proud to say that this last session the state legislature passed a budget that was both balanced and completed on time. Most importantly, we were able to protect municipal aid and even increased educational aid to Stamford.

It is also worth noting that this year the legislature and Governor Rell agreed to cut nearly half a billion dollars in pre-approved bonding projects.

The future continues to look brighter in other areas too. The first of the much-anticipated new M-8 rail cars will be in service on the Metro-North line by December, with the full order of 300 new rail cars expected to be operational by October 2012. More jobs and corporate headquarters are relocating to Stamford, as evidenced by the recent announcements by Starwood Hotels and Nestle Waters. And recent legislative changes which I championed will ensure that the Stamford Transportation Center parking garage will be re-built on-site, and that our valuable technical school system will get much fairer treatment from state officials in the future.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. McDonald  
State Senator



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I’m proud to represent the citizens of  
Stamford & Darien

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## STATE SENATOR Andrew J. McDonald

SERVING STAMFORD &amp; DARIEN

### NEW LAWS

#### Stepping Up the Fight Against Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a serious problem. We took important action this legislative session by passing a package of bills that will help protect victims, prevent future abuse and increase public awareness.

- ▶ **Judicial and Criminal Justice Systems**—Changes include: implementing a pilot program for electronic monitoring of the highest risk domestic violence offenders; improved enforcement of protective orders; and the creation of three additional domestic violence court dockets.
- ▶ **Housing and Human Services Changes**—The process for survivors of domestic violence who need to terminate their lease will be streamlined.

#### New Rules for Hospitals That Make Mistakes



When hospitals make mistakes, consumers deserve to know. That's why the legislature passed a law that requires the state to collect hospital accident data and provide consumers with an annual report that breaks down the data by hospital. Hospitals and outpatient facilities are required to develop action plans within 30 days to address any errors. Additionally, through an amendment I championed, any person who files a complaint against a health care provider is entitled to participate in the hearing process as part of the Department of Public Health's investigation.

#### Renewed Efforts to Prevent Foreclosures

The national housing crisis that started in 2008 continues to impact Connecticut. The state's landmark foreclosure mediation program that I co-authored has helped to keep more than 3,000 homeowners in their homes. The success of the program convinced us to extend the program until 2012. Preventing foreclosures is not only good for the homeowners, it also improves property values, reduces blight and helps to control crime. For more information, visit [www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure](http://www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure).



#### Reducing Red Tape for State Businesses

Growing jobs must be Connecticut's top priority. A new law streamlines the state's environmental permitting process for economic development projects by reducing government bureaucracy. In business, time is money—and now Connecticut businesses will have the opportunity to save both. Of course, environmental



Discussing the current state of hybrid automobile technology with Stamford resident Brandon Campbell of Toyota of Stamford.

safeguards cannot be overlooked. That's why we worked with environmental advocates and business leaders to ensure that a faster permitting process doesn't jeopardize the quality of the air we breathe or the water we drink.

#### Working Together to Balance the Budget

The 2010 legislative session began with the state facing a projected deficit of more than \$1.2 billion for the current two-year budget. Despite the daunting task of closing the deficit, we were able to work together in a bipartisan



hion with the governor to balance the budget. In order to accomplish that, we cut state spending by hundreds of millions of dollars, reduced borrowing and worked hard to maximize federal funding. We were also able to protect aid to our cities and towns.

#### Helping Seniors Survive the Recession

The effects of a recession on seniors can be especially profound. We were able to pass several laws which help reduce health care costs, keep seniors in their homes and protect them from scam artists:

- ▶ Reduced the 15 percent co-pay on the Home Care Program for Elders to 6 percent. The reduction will save the average client in the program nearly \$100 per month on co-pays.
- ▶ Reopened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program to provide respite services for caregivers.
- ▶ Protected the privacy of those who participate in senior center programming by exempting personal information from the Freedom of Information Laws.



## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### JOBSEEKERS

- ▶ **CT JobCentral**  
An online job bank where individuals can search for jobs as well as upload their resume and access various employment-related information. 1-866-268-6206 or [www.jobcentral.org/ct](http://www.jobcentral.org/ct)
- ▶ **Unemployment Insurance**  
For an in-depth explanation of unemployment insurance and benefits call the TeleBenefits number in Stamford. 203-348-2696

### SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

- ▶ **Choose Your Electric Supplier**  
The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by ten percent. 1-888-922-3782 or [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)



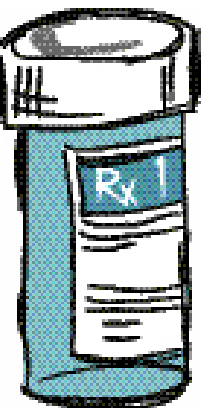
### CONSUMER PROTECTION

- ▶ **Making the "Do Not Call" List Stronger**  
Current law allows the state to impose fines for violations of the "No Sales Solicitation Calls" statute under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, and legislation passed this year would allow the state to impose an additional \$11,000 fine. To register a telephone number, consumers may call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-888-382-1222 or the state Department of Consumer Protection at 1-800-842-2649.

### FOR SENIORS

- ▶ **Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)**  
By joining MSP, eligible seniors could save \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare Part B premiums, and the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments. Most individuals in ConnPACE are eligible for Medicare and can enroll in MSP.

As a ConnPACE member, your pharmacy co-payment is now \$16.25. Your pharmacy co-pay could be reduced to as low as \$2.50 for generics and \$6.30 for brand-name drugs on Medicare Part D's Drug list. For more information, call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422, speak to a representative at 211, or visit [www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms](http://www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms).



### OTHER RESOURCES AND LINKS

Find more helpful resources for jobseekers, veterans, those facing foreclosure and more at [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov).